

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

The Department of Human Services, established under section 26-14 and specifically provided for in chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is headed by the Director of Human Services. The Department's mission is to direct its resources toward protecting and helping those least able to care for themselves and to provide services designed toward achieving self-sufficiency for clients as quickly as possible. The Department is committed to maintaining a high level of quality, efficiency, and effectiveness in its services.

### **Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division**

The Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division provides monthly benefits to assist eligible clients with such essentials as food, clothing, shelter, and child care, as well as employment and job training to help families attain self-sufficiency. Monthly cash benefits are provided to individuals and families through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Temporary Assistance to Other Needy Families (TAONF), General Assistance, and Assistance to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled programs. The Food Stamp program helps to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry. Child care subsidies are provided to financially needy families if they work or are attending school or training to become self-sufficient. The Division licenses child care providers to ensure the health and safety of the children being cared for.

### **Med-QUEST Division**

The Med-QUEST Division administers the State's Medicaid program through which health care is provided to the low-income population. The Medicaid program is jointly financed by the State of Hawaii and the federal government. Health care coverage is provided through either managed care or fee-for-service payments to health care providers or contracts with managed care plans. The State's Children Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) was established with Tobacco Settlement Funds to expand health coverage to more children whose families may be working but do not earn enough to pay for health coverage for their children. The Division monitors services to ensure appropriateness and quality care.

### **Social Services Division**

The Social Services Division provides social services programs to ensure the health and safety of those least able to protect themselves from abuse and neglect. The Child Welfare Services program provides services to ensure the safety and permanency of children in their own homes or, when necessary, in out-of-home placements. The program is community-based and neighborhood-focused with partnerships and collaboration with the private and public sectors. Services are focused on empowering families and building upon family strengths. When children cannot be safely returned to the family, the Child Welfare Services program proceeds with permanent placement through adoption, legal guardianship, or other substitute long-term care, including independent living. The program also licenses foster families, boarding homes, group homes, and child-placing organizations.

The Adult Protective Services program provides crisis intervention, including investigation and emergency services to dependent adults who are reported to be abused, neglected, or financially exploited by others or seriously endangered due to self-neglect.

The Home and Community-Based Services program provides comprehensive home and community-based services to disabled adults and children to enable them to live in their homes or in the community as long as possible to prevent premature institutionalization.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division**

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division administers programs that provide rehabilitation services to assist eligible persons with disabilities to secure employment and to lead full and independent lives. The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program offers vocational evaluation, planning, counseling, treatment, training, job placement, and follow-up services to persons with physical or mental disabilities to enable them to become employed. The economic benefits of the VR program include increased earnings and purchasing power, increased tax revenues, and decreased dependency on public assistance.

The Services to the Blind program, called Ho`opono, enables visually impaired adults to attain maximum vocational and functional independence by providing varied services including vocational, counseling, assistive technology, and social and independent living skills training. Persons with visual impairment are also assisted in establishing and operating vending facilities.

The Disability Determination program determines eligibility for Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income benefits under the federal Social Security program.

## **Attached for Administrative Purposes**

### **Office of Youth Services**

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) develops and provides a continuum of services for youth at risk to prevent delinquency and to reduce recidivism through prevention, rehabilitation, and treatment services. Youth's needs, from prevention to incarceration to aftercare, are addressed through programs such as the Youth Service Centers, the Youth Gang Response System, Ho`okala Adolescent Diversion as an alternative to incarceration through immediate intervention services, non-residential and in-community aftercare services to prevent further incarceration, and community-based residential services as an alternative to incarceration. The OYS also manages and operates the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility to provide safe and secure housing for the most violent and dangerous juvenile offenders. Incarcerated youth are provided counseling, treatment, and educational services for redirection and rehabilitation.

